

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: INTERFAITH GROUP CHARGES OF U.S. NON-COMPLIANCE  
WITH PARIS AGREEMENT.

REF: SAIGON 15729

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS  
ABOUT THE INTERFAITH GROUP LETTER AND FOR RELATED  
QUESTIONS CONCERNING U.S. COMPLIANCE WITH THE PARIS  
AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION WE PROPOSE TO ISSUE THE MATERIAL  
IN FACT SHEET FORM FOR DISTRIBUTION TO U.S. NEWSPAPERS,  
RADIO AND TV STATIONS AND OTHER MEDIA SERVICES. COPIES  
OF THE FACT SHEET WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THE 36 SIGNERS  
OF THE INTERFAITH GROUP LETTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT

SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON ENDING

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THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIET-NAM IN JANUARY, 1973

REPEATED CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT HONORED THAT AGREEMENT. IT HAS BEEN CHARGED THAT HOSTILITIES CONTINUE BECAUSE OF ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES DESIGNED TO PERPETUATE THE CONFLICT. YET THE HISTORY OF VIET-NAM SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE DOES NOT SUPPORT

SUCH CHARGES.

THE UNITED STATES USED EVERY METHOD AND RESOURCE AT ITS COMMAND TO ACHIEVE A CEASE-FIRE IN VIET-NAM WHICH, WHILE BRINGING A CESSATION OF KILLING, WOULD NOT SACRIFICE THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF VIET-NAM. IT WAS NOT OUR PURPOSE TO IMPOSE A GOVERNMENT OR SOCIAL SYSTEM ON SOUTH VIET-NAM CONTRARY TO THE DESIRES OF THE MAJORITY OF ITS PEOPLE. IT WAS OUR GOAL AND HOPE THAT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES AND RESOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE. IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THE IMPOSITION OF POLITICAL SOLUTIONS BY MILITARY FORCE NOT ONLY VIOLATES OUR PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE BUT ALSO DOES NOT LEAD TO REAL PEACE.

AT THE TIME THAT NORTH VIET-NAM SIGNED THE PARIS AGREEMENT ITS FORCES IN THE SOUTH WERE ENGAGED IN A LAST-MINUTE OFFENSIVE DESIGNED TO SEIZE AS MUCH SOUTH VIETNAMESE TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE CEASE-FIRE COULD TAKE HOLD. AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT, AND AFTER REPULSE OF THAT OFFENSIVE, HOSTILITIES DID SHARPLY DECLINE FOR A TIME AND WE HAD HOPED THAT HANOI WOULD HONOR THE AGREEMENT SO THAT ULTIMATELY ALL HOSTILITIES WOULD CEASE. THOSE HOPES WERE NOT REALIZED, HOWEVER, AS HANOI ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO BUILD UP ITS FORCES IN THE SOUTH WITH MASSIVE INFILTRATION OF MEN AND WAR MATERIEL. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REFUSED TO DEPLOY THE TEAMS WHICH UNDER THE AGREEMENT WERE TO OVERSEE THE CEASE-FIRE, HARASSED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION, AND EVEN REFUSED TO PAY THEIR SHARE OF ITS EXPENSES. IN MAY, 1974, THEY BROKE OFF THE POLITICAL TALKS WHICH WERE IN PROGRESS IN PARIS TO

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ARRANGE A GENERAL ELECTION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AS PROVIDED IN THE AGREEMENT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THEY BROKE OFF THE MILITARY TALKS IN SAIGON. IN NOVEMBER 1974, WHEN PRESIDENT THIEU AGAIN CALLED ON THEM TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, HANOI'S RESPONSE WAS A DENUNCIATION. ON DECEMBER 5 NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES BEGAN WIDESPREAD REGIONAL OFFENSIVES WHICH BROUGHT HEAVY CASUALTIES TO BOTH SIDES AND AGAIN GENERATED PITIFUL REFUGEE COLUMNS

WE HAVE SO OFTEN SEEN BEFORE.

IT HAS BEEN CHARGED THAT THERE IS NO PEACE IN VIET-NAM. INDEED THE PEACE IS THREATENED IN SOUTH VIET-NAM--SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY CONVENTIONAL NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN ARMY STRENGTH. IT IS IMPORTANT TO

NOTE THAT THERE IS NO FIGHTING IN NORTH VIET-NAM AND THERE ARE NO SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS IN THE NORTH.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN ARTICLE 7 PROVIDES THAT THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES SHALL NOT ACCEPT THE INTRODUCTION OF TROOPS; ARTICLE 15 PROVIDES THAT THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE SHALL BE RESPECTED BY NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM; AND ARTICLE 20 REQUIRES THAT THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO REFRAIN FROM USING THE TERRITORY OF CAMBODIA AND LAOS TO ENCROACH ON THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES. ALL OF THESE ARTICLES HAVE BEEN PERSISTENTLY AND FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED BY NORTH VIET-NAM; ITS FORCES IN THE SOUTH HAVE GROWN FROM ABOUT 140,000 IN JANUARY, 1973 TO OVER 200,000 IN JANUARY 1975, AND THE SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENT OF THAT FORCE HAS BEEN MASSIVELY IMPROVED BOTH QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY. TANKS, HEAVY GUNS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS HAVE FLOWED SOUTH IN A STEADY STREAM ON ALL-WEATHER ROADS CONSTRUCTED SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE.

IT HAS BEEN CHARGED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS VIOLATED THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOUTH VIET-NAM. ARTICLE 7 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT PERMITS THE PIECE-FOR-PIECE REPLACEMENT OF WAR MATERIEL WHICH HAS BEEN DESTROYED, DAMAGED, WORN  
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OUT OR USED UP. BUT U.S. MILITARY AID LEVELS HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATE TO REMOTELY MATCH THE PIECE-FOR-PIECE LEVEL PERMITTED BY THE AGREEMENT. THE LEVEL AS BEEN SUCH, IN FACT, THAT SHORTAGES OF AMMUNITION AND OTHER SUPPLIES HAVE RESULTED IN INCREASED CASUALTIES SUFFERED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY.

IT HAS BEEN CHARGED THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO SEND MILITARY ADVISERS TO VIET-NAM. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MAINTAIN MILITARY ADVISERS OF ANY KIND IN VIET-NAM; NOR DO CIVILIANS SERVE AS MILITARY ADVISERS. ALL MILITARY AND POLICE ADVISERS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM VIET-NAM FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON JANUARY 27, 1973. ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED, THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT BE

MORE THAN CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THE COUNTRY AGAINST CONTINUED NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY ATTACKS.

THERE ARE FIFTY MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE OF THE EMBASSY. THEY MONITOR U.S. MILITARY AID, AS REQUIRED BY U.S. LEGISLATION, AND PERFORM TRADITIONAL MILITARY ATTACHE FUNCTIONS. ALL ARE ASSIGNED TO SAIGON.

IN ADDITION TO ATTACHE PERSONNEL, THERE ARE SMALL TEAMS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM AND THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER LIAISON OFFICE IN SAIGON. THESE PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8(B) OF THE AGREEMENT, TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS MISSING IN ACTION. ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY BLOCKED BY A TOTAL LACK OF COOPERATION FROM THE COMMUNIST SIDE, DESPITE PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENT CALLING FOR SUCH MUTUAL COOPERATION.

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS UNDER THE TERMS OF

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, THE UNITED STATES HAS PROVIDED THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WITH TECHNICAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE IN MANY FIELDS RANGING FROM AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT. THIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN CARRIED ON BY DIRECT-HIRE EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR BY ORGANIZATIONS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTRACT. THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY CIVILIANS IS NOT PROHIBITED UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, EVEN THIS TYPE OF ASSISTANCE HAS DECLINED SHARPLY SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. IN JANUARY, 1973, THERE WERE 5,237 U.S. CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES; IN SEPTEMBER 1974 THERE WERE 1912. THESE CIVILIANS DO NOT SERVE IN ANY WAY AS MILITARY ADVISERS; THEIR ROLE IS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INSTRUCTION TO THE VIETNAMESE.

FINALLY, THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINS AN EMBASSY IN AND FOUR CONSULATES GENERAL IN SOUTH VIET-NAM -- DA NANG, NHA TRANG, BIEN HOA AND CAN THO. THESE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS ARE MANNED BY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO PERFORM TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC, CONSULAR AND ECONOMIC AID-RELATED FUNCTIONS, AND CAN IN

NO WAY BE CONSIDERED AS MILITARY ADVISERS. IN ADDITION  
TO THE CIVILIANS AT THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATES GENERAL,  
THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 70 U.S. MARINES WHO PROVIDE  
SECURITY FOR THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AS THEY DO IN U.S.  
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT,  
THE UNITED STATES HAD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF

THE AGREEMENT, WITHDRAWN ALL OF ITS MILITARY ADVISERS  
AND ALL OF ITS POLICE ADVISERS FROM VIET-NAM. CONSISTENT  
WITH THIS PROVISION, MILITARY AND POLICE ADVISERS HAVE  
NOT BEEN REINTRODUCED INTO VIET-NAM. THE UNITED STATES  
HAS FAITHFULLY ABIDED BY ITS COMMITMENT CONCERNING THE  
WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY PERSONNEL. AS INDICATED ABOVE,  
NORTH VIETNAMESE, IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF THE AGREEMENT,  
HAVE INTRODUCED BOTH MEN AND WAR MATERIEL INTO THE SOUTH  
IN GREAT NUMBERS. END TEXT. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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